ADRIAN GREER - BIOGRAPHY

Adrian Greer is a non-executive director and freelance consultant. He has held the role of Chancellor’s Assessor on the St. Andrews University Court for over three years. He also chairs the Health and Safety Group, sits on the Planning and Resources Committee and has been appointed as Chair of the Remuneration Committee from next year.

In addition, he holds a public appointment as Commissioner with the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission.

Adrian spent 35 years working for the British Council until he left earlier this year. The British Council is the UK’s international cultural relations organisation. For the last nine years he held the role of Chief Operating Officer, with responsibility for its worldwide operations. During his British Council career he lived overseas, in sub Saharan Africa, Russia and in East Asia and therefore brings a wide international perspective and cultural understanding. A central part of the British Council mission is to promote UK Higher Education overseas and to support its international engagement.

Since leaving the British Council Adrian has continued to pursue his professional interest in Higher Education and is currently leading a small team conducting a strategic consultancy review of a national university in the Gulf.

In 2004 Adrian was awarded a CMG for his work as British Council Country Director in Russia.

A graduate of English Language and Literature from the University of St Andrews, he is also a qualified accountant and worked for four years for the National Audit Office in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a keen runner and swimmer. A Scot by origin, Adrian now divides his time between London and Scotland - he is married and has four grown-up children, the youngest of whom is still at university.
ADRIAN GREER

I am a graduate of St. Andrews university and have spent over three years on the Court. My family links with the town go back nearly 50 years. I am immensely proud of the university’s well-earned reputation for world-class academic and research excellence, across a broad range of disciplines. I also have a deep emotional commitment to its continuing success. If elected as Senior Lay Member (SLM) I would see the role as my primary responsibility for the next four years.

For any candidate, becoming SLM would be both a great honour and also a major responsibility. In a fast-changing environment, the person appointed will require skill, focus, excellent judgment and dedication. I believe that my background and personal style match those needs and I am at a stage in my career when I can give the time and energy that it requires.

As the university’s overall governing body, an important role for Court is to provide advice and constructive challenge to the senior leadership. In my more than three years on Court, and over two years on the Planning and Resources Committee, I believe I have earned the trust and support of my colleagues. I have developed a good understanding of the overall external environment within which the university operates as well as of its strategy, academic mission and the detail of its operations. I would therefore be ready to step into the SLM role next year.

I have always taken the time to understand and appreciate the perspectives of students, faculty and professional services staff and have consistently raised issues at Court that are important to these different groups. As SLM I would ensure that all parts of the university felt represented and that their priorities were well understood by all those charged with making decisions across the various Court committees.

My style of leadership has always been seen as calm, measured, inclusive and collaborative. I also have a demonstrable commitment to diversity and fairness. My strong desire to widen access to higher education comes in part from my personal experience, appreciating the opportunities a university education gave to me.

I have a professional background, which helped me attain important core skills in the areas of strategy, finance, project management and leadership. As a qualified accountant I have a strong understanding and experience of effective financial management. My career in the British Council has left me with me an instinctively international and outward looking perspective. With over 13 years’ experience of serving on governing boards, both as executive and trustee, I have a clear understanding of where the appropriate dividing line lies between the two functions.

My knowledge of, and commitment to, the Higher Education sector has developed over many years. A large part of my career has been spent in supporting and promoting the sector overseas and I remain deeply committed to international educational collaboration.